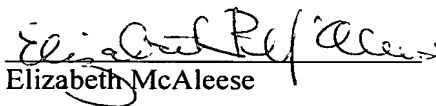


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PATENT

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, please  
enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**The Status of the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 19 of this paper.